

Karatsu Raft Race

Join Liberty for a watercraft challenge Japan style!



KARATSU RAFT RACE

Sunday, July 30

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Free

Registration Deadline: Friday, July 21

Bring a change of clothes.

Citizens of Karatsu are proud of their castle, autumn festival and beautiful beach in their city. In 1982, they started an annual raft race to introduce Karatsu's beautiful nature to attract people from outside the city. The race will be held this year on Sunday, July 30.

One team consisting of 4 to 8 people can rent a raft and paddles at the race site. The race distance is approximately 1 to 2 kilometers (about 1 mile) between the beach and a small island in Karatsu Bay. The distance varies depending on the weather and the tide condition of the day. About 40 teams participate every year and some teams bring in their own rafts for the design competition.

Once the race has started, teamwork is needed to make the raft go straight and to make turns. The difference between boat rides at the river compared to the ocean is that you have to read the tide to control your raft. Then all you have to do is row and row with all your might! With sunshine, water splash and friends, this is a great summer event. If you ride with the tide you can finish the race in 15 minutes, and if not it can take over an hour. But do not worry about the time. Having fun with your friends is what it is all about.

On the beach you can spend time with the local Japanese who are cheering for the teams, and with the participants and staff at the post-race party. This is another great part of the event and you will love the warm and friendly welcome from the local residents. For more information and registration, contact the Liberty Center at 252-3756.



DOLPHIN WATCHING

USO:

Saturday, July 1

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. • \$10 (Reg. \$20)

Trip includes transportation and entrance fees. Bring Yen for food and souvenirs. Discount price is limited to the first 20 sign-ups. Trip subsidized courtesy of your Sasebo USO.

HIRADO CASTLE & BEACH

USO:

Saturday, July 8

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Free (Reg. \$5)

This trip is free to the first 20 sign-ups. Courtesy of your Sasebo USO.

NAGASAKI BAY CASUAL BBQ CRUISE

Sunday, July 9

5:30 - 10:30 p.m. • \$35

Trip includes transportation, 100-minute cruise and an all-you-can-eat BBQ Dinner. Bring a camera and Yen for souvenirs.

TAKU RESORT & SPA

Saturday, July 15

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. • \$20

Trip includes transportation and entrance fees to the spa and pool. Bring a change of clothes and Yen for food and souvenirs.

SOFTBANK HAWKS VS. HOKKAIDO NIPPON-HAM FIGHTERS PRO-BASEBALL GAME

Sunday, July 16

10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. • \$25

Trip includes transportation and ticket. Bring Yen for food and souvenirs. Limit 10 tickets.

HORSEBACK RIDING

USO:

Saturday, July 22

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. • \$22.50 (Reg. \$45)

Bring Yen for food and snacks.

Discounted price limited to the first 10 sign-ups. Trip subsidized courtesy of your Sasebo USO.

NANATSUGAMA LIMESTONE CAVE

Saturday, July 29

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. • \$10

Trip includes transportation, two-hour caving experience, helmet, lights and spa entrance. Bring extra change of clothes, shoes and Yen for food and souvenirs.

SPACE WORLD AMUSEMENT PARK

USO:

Saturday, August 5

9 a.m. - 7 p.m. • \$17.50 (Reg. \$35)

Includes transportation and entrance fees. Experience the thrill of Atlas Tower and the rush of the Alien Panic. Bring extra Yen for shopping and food. Discounted price limited to the first 20 sign-ups.

Trip subsidized courtesy of your Sasebo USO.

GO-CARTS

Sunday, August 6

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. • \$30

Includes transportation and 14 laps. Bring extra Yen to purchase more laps.

99 ISLANDS BOAT CRUISE

USO:

Saturday, August 12

2 - 6 p.m. • \$4 (Reg. \$8)

Includes transportation and cruise. Bring extra Yen for dinner. Discounted price limited to the first 20 sign-ups. Trip subsidized courtesy of your Sasebo USO.

NAGASAKI CITY TOUR

Sunday, August 13

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. • \$15

Come discover the sites of Nagasaki such as Peace Park, A-Bomb Museum and Mt. Inasa Ropeway. Bring extra Yen for food and souvenirs.

PAPIO ICE SKATING & CANAL CITY SHOPPING

Saturday, August 19

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. • \$15

Trip includes transportation and skating fee. Bring Yen for food, shopping and souvenirs.

NANAYAMA CREEK WALK

Sunday, August 20

8 a.m. - 2 p.m. • Free

Registration Deadline: Friday, August 4
Bring a change of clothes and Yen for food and souvenirs.

HIROSHIMA & MIYAJIMA OVERNIGHT TRIP

USO:

Saturday, August 26 - Sunday, August 27

8 a.m. - 9 p.m. • \$15 (Reg. \$30)

Includes transportation, hotel and entrance fees. Bring extra Yen for food and souvenirs. Discounted price limited to the first 10 sign-ups.

Trip subsidized courtesy of your Sasebo USO.